Diseases due to pollution

†3284. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of diseases are spreading fast in the country due to pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is formulating any action plan to contain pollution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Studies carried out by various institutions in some major cities on environmental pollution and health effects provide no conclusive scientific evidence to establish cause-effect relationship between environmental pollution and incidences of mortality.

(c) and (d) Measures taken to control pollution include comprehensive policy for abatement of pollution, supply of improved auto-fuel including Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), tightening of vehicular and industrial emission norms, mandatory environmental clearance for specified industries, management of municipal and bio-medical wastes, promotion of cleaner technologies, strengthening of air and water quality monitoring stations, guidelines evolved for e-waste management, assessment of pollution load and source apportionment studies, issue of closure notices to non-complying units, special drive for 17 categories of highly polluting industries, use of low ash content coal in specified thermal power plants, preparation and implementation of action plans for major cities and critically polluted areas.

Panna Reserve Forests

3285. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that after Sariska, Panna Reserve Forests in Madhya Pradesh has fallen prey to poachers;

(b) if so, whether Government is aware that villagers have suspected that all tigers have been killed except one and there is no female tiger in the forest;

(c) whether Government is also aware that census conducted by the Forest Department had exaggerated figures about Panna; and

(d) if so, the exact position right now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) An appraisal of the status of tiger population in the Panna Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh has been carried out by a committee comprising of independent experts, which has reported tiger presence in the said area. However, the Wildlife institute of India has been directed to ascertain the spatial occupancy of tiger and confirm its status, using camera traps.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.